

**Brief about National Green Corps (NGC) & Activities to be taken up by Eco Clubs
PROGRAMME OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND
CLIMATE CHANGE (MoEFCC), GOVT. OF INDIA**

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National Green Corps(NGC) is a major initiative of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for creating environmental awareness launched in 2001-02 which aims at building cadres of young children working towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. The phenomenal response that NGC received has made the network consisting more than 1,00,000 Eco Clubs across the country in 16 years. This is one of the largest conservation networks at grass root level in taking environment awareness to the masses.

The unique partnership between the MoEFCC, the state Government agencies along with the dedicated NGOs, working in the field of Environmental Education has contributed to the success of the programme. It is operated through Eco-clubs set up in schools registered as members of NGC. The programme exposes school children to in-depth field experiences and provides opportunities to convert their ideas into creative action.

The programme has a cascading effect, seeks to redirect the consciousness of students towards environment friendly attitudes and actions and goes beyond schools, promoting school-society interactions to sensitize the society. Also in order to strengthen monitoring mechanism of NGC programme, MoEFCC is in process to establish Management Information system (MIS) which will open up vistas in sharing and accessing the information on NGC among all stakeholders. The MIS reporting and monitoring would be interactive and creative in ensuring NGC mobility and services.

In Assam, ASTE Council has been conducting this holistic programme as State Nodal Agency(SNA) since 2002-2003 involving lakhs of school children and teachers. This year, we are going to release an amount of Rs. 5000/- as one-time annual grant each to 100 College Eco Clubs and 9310 School Eco Clubs comprising of ME, MV, High & HSS based on the data provided by the concerned District Nodal Agencies. Necessary steps are also being taken for increasing the number of School Eco Clubs up to 500 per district from the next FY. It is seen that the Eco Clubs are taking active part in various environment related programmes like, setting up of indigenous fruit plant garden, birth day garden, school botanical garden, tree plantation, rallies, debates, quiz, popular lectures, nature trail and cleanliness drive, etc.

Prime objectives of NGC:

- i. Creating environmental awareness among masses.
- ii. Environment education and capacity building of young children.
- iii. Environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Role of Eco Clubs

Eco-Clubs shall take up maximum possible activities as mentioned below within the budget of Rs. 5000/- which will be transferred to colleges/schools directly by State Nodal Agency(ASTECC) through electronic mode.

- Organize seminars, debates, lectures and popular talks on environmental issues in the school.
- Organize field visits to environmentally important sites including polluted and degraded sites wildlife parks etc.
- Organize rallies, marches, human chains and street theatre at public places with a view to spread environmental awareness.
- Take up activities like tree plantation, cleanliness drives both within and outside the school campus.
- To adopt at least one natural water body by each Eco Club for regular cleaning and maintenance.
- Grow kitchen garden, maintain vermin-composting pits, construct water-harvesting structures in school, practice paper recycling etc.
- Prepare inventories of polluting sources and forward it to enforcement agencies.
- Organize awareness programmes against defecation in public places, pasting posters in public places and to propagate personal hygiene habits like washing hands before meals etc.
- To sensitize people about maintenance of public places like parks, gardens both within and outside the school campus.
- Mobilize action against environmentally unsound practices like garbage disposal in unauthorized places, unsafe disposal of hospital waste etc.
- Undertake case studies, compile lists of environmentally friendly products and community initiatives which have impacted the environment.
- Create database on land use pattern, species diversity, medicinal plants, etc. to help planned conservation efforts.
- Test soil, water and air quality and study their impact on health.
- Learn to make natural dyes and herbal cosmetics.
- Volunteer to help or guide visitors in Zoos, Botanical Gardens, National Parks and Public Gardens.
- Start and maintain a mini orchidarium, seed bank, arboretum, etc. in school.
- Demonstrate/promote eco-friendly practices like non-chemical pest management, stall-feeding of animals to protect pastureland from over-grazing, use of energy- efficient devices or use of renewable energy for meeting local needs.

Structure of Eco Club

President: Head of Institution

Teacher In-Charge: Faculty/Teacher having science communication skill.

Eco Club Members:

Student member: 20 or more

Faculty/ Teacher member: As per choice

Note:

- College Eco Clubs may keep contact with respective District Nodal Agencies to obtain necessary information & collaboration.
- Each College having College Eco Club may adopt at least 10 School Eco Clubs for conducting Eco Club activities.

Role of District Nodal Agency (DNA):

- Enrolment of School Eco Clubs up to 500 numbers including MV, ME, High & HSS in the district.
- Collection, compilation & submission of data as per formats given by the State Nodal Agency (ASTECC) from time to time.
- To encourage all the schools of the district to participate in the above mentioned activities.
- Regular monitoring of school Eco club activities and timely reporting to State Nodal Agency.
- To conduct few of the above mentioned activities at district level involving schools/ colleges.
- Any other activity on issues of environment concern in the district.
- MoEFCC has allocated a sum of Rs 25,000/- per district for implementation & monitoring of Eco Clubs at district level.
- Each District Nodal Agency will assist concerned Deputy Commissioner / Inspector of Schools in taking initiatives to constitute a District Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DIMC) as per following structure and also in taking up activities thereafter. The term of the Committee will only for 3(three) years.

District Implementation and monitoring Committee (DIMC)

1. Deputy Commissioner	: Chairman
2. Inspector of Schools	: Member Convener
3. District Elementary Education Officer	: Member
4. District/Divisional Forest Officer	: Member
5. District Soil Conservation Officer	: Member
6. Jt. Director, Health Service	: Member
7. President/ Secretary of District Nodal Agency	: Member
8. Renowned Environmental Activist	: Member
9. Renowned Social Worker	: Member

N.B. Concerned Deputy Commissioner/ Inspector of Schools may include co-opted members in the DIMC members if necessary. After constitution of DIMC, a notification duly signed by concerned Deputy Commissioner is to be sent to all concerned. College Eco Clubs do not come under the DIMC but they may be involved in district level events.

Role of State Nodal Agency (DNA):

- The Assam Science Technology and Environment Council is representing as State Nodal Agency (SNA) for implementing NGC programmes Assam.
- In Assam, School Eco Clubs are directly monitored by the District Nodal Agencies which are appointed by ASTEC and the College Eco Clubs are directly monitored by the ASTEC.
- Disbursement of necessary fund to all concerned Eco Clubs & DNAs as per MoEFCC allocation only.
- Strengthening, coordination & monitoring of all Eco Clubs & DNAs
- Conducting different eco-friendly programmes & generating awareness among masses on Environment issues of State, national and global priorities.

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